United Nations E/2015/NGO/20

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
29 May 2015

Original: English

2015 session
21 July 2014-22 July 2015
Agenda item 5 (c)
High-level segment: annual ministerial review

Statement submitted by Confédération des organisations familiales de l'Union européenne, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

15-08520 (E) 170615

Please recycle

Statement

In terms of the development of the post-2015 goals, we wish to emphasize the importance and also the cross-cutting impact of family policies through Member States' priorities in economy, poverty-reduction, employment, gender, education and health.

Well-designed, effective and evidence-based family policies are absolutely crucial for raising millions out of poverty by supporting families throughout the entire life-cycle, from cradle to grave. Financial support in the form of benefits and allowances, combined with appropriate time-policies, such as leaves, time-off work, as well as affordable, accessible and quality services (childcare, elder-care) are at the heart of a well-functioning sustainable society. Sustainability and development cannot be uncoupled from policies and services that support families in all aspects of their lives. Safe and warm, affordable housing, quality education open to boys and girls allowing them to reach their full potential, appropriate support and healthcare to pregnant women and new mothers, healthy food and eating habits, decent work to parents, and appropriate, reliable and quality care to disabled, elderly and sick family members are all prerequisites to a sustainable, healthy and productive society, which will benefit all.

In the development and implementation of the post-2015 agenda, the work must be based on transparency, partnership and communication between all involved actors, special focus must be placed on family policies targeting among others gender equality and women's participation in the labour market. In addition to the economic struggles of recent years which took its toll on families and their economic wellbeing, women's situation on the labour market has been weakened that is closely associated with a number of factors, including the absence of available quality childcare and elderly-care facilities, working time pattern developments, lack of work-life balance practices at the company level etc. Equally important are the considerations for children's' rights and the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the respect and enforcement of rights of persons with disabilities, through the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and these have to be reflected in the core of the new sustainable development goals.

We recognise that the sustainable development goals call for the inclusion of more family policies, which not only encourage a better work-family balance, but also enhance the quality of part-time jobs and improve overall business productivity.

We need to rally behind the new sustainable development goals to make a significant improvement to the lives of families globally. We as COFACE (http://www.coface-eu.org/en/) are more than ready to support the United Nations and all its connected institutions in achieving these important objectives.